

Appl. No. : 09/389,720
Filed : September 3, 1999

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed November 26, 2004. Applicant has hereby amended Claims 20 and 81 and added new Claims 82-87. Thus, Claims 20-24, 29, 30 and 59-87 are pending in this application of which Claims 62-80 have been allowed.

A listing is included herein above with the status of all claims and the text of all pending claims. The specific changes to the amended claims are shown by ~~strike through for any deletions~~ and underlining for any insertions.

CLAIMS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 20-24, 29, 30, 59 and 81 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,144,102 to Amagai (hereafter "Amagai") and Claims 20-24, 29, 30, 59-61 and 81 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,199,743 B1 to Bettinger et al. (hereafter "Bettinger") in combination with Amagai.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and the Examiner's characterization of the cited references.

In this case, Applicant has amended independent Claims 20 and 81 to more particularly define embodiments of the invention.

Independent Claims 20 and 81 are directed to an assembly and each recites, among other things, a temporary carrier. Amagai does not teach or suggest an assembly as set forth in Applicant's Claims 20 and 81. The combination of Bettinger and Amagai does not teach or suggest an assembly as set forth in Applicant's Claims 20 and 81.

Amagai discloses a lead frame (21) characterized by the Examiner as a carrier. The lead frame (21) includes dam leads (21a) characterized by the Examiner as cross bars by referring to FIG. 9 of Amagai. As clearly shown in FIG. 8 and as disclosed by Amagai at column 6, lines 67 and 68, the lead frame (21) is not temporary since the dam leads (21a) are not removed and remain to form a portion of the package.

Therefore, Amagai cannot possibly anticipate Applicant's Claims 20 and 81 and the combination of Bettinger and Amagai cannot possibly make obvious Applicant's Claims 20 and 81.

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Claims 21-24, 29, 30, 59-61 and new Claims 82-84 depend from Claim 20, and each recites a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 20-24, 29, 30, 59-61 and 82-84 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 85-87 depend from Claim 81, and each recites a unique combination of features not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 81 and 85-87 are in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that Claims 62-80 have been allowed. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance to the extent that not all of the limitations of the allowed claims are included in the statements because it is the claim as a whole that is determined to be patentable and not any specific limitation. Applicant also respectfully disagrees to the extent the language of the claims is paraphrased and not reproduced word for word in its entirety.

FORM PTO-1449

In each of the last two Office Action Responses, filed on September 13, 2004 and February 19, 2004 respectively, Applicant had included a copy of a form PTO-1449 signed by the Examiner on November 5, 2003 in which one reference was not initialed by the Examiner. Applicant had requested the Examiner's consideration of the noted reference and return of an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 in the next communication to Applicant.

Since Applicant has not received this fully initialed form PTO-1449, enclosed herewith is another copy of the partially initialed form PTO-1449. The reference is identified as JP 11-180291A on the form and corresponds to Japanese Publication No. 2001011494 A. A copy of an English language abstract is provided herewith.

Applicant would like to note that since this reference was cited by the same Examiner in related Application No. 09/858,118, filed May 15, 2001, the Examiner is aware of the reference and has considered it during examination of the instant application.

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However, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's formal acknowledgement of consideration of the noted reference and return of an initialed copy of the subject PTO-1449 in the next communication to Applicant.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/15/05

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